



Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group

CBD BUG

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The Right Hon Graham Quirk
Lord Mayor of Brisbane City
GPO Box 2287
Brisbane Queensland 4001

Dear Lord Mayor

I to refer your announcement made as part of the 2015-16 Brisbane City Council Budget that Edward Street in the Brisbane central business District (CBD) will lose a traffic lane between Queen Street and Charlotte Street to allow for wider footpaths.

The Brisbane CBD Bicycle User Group (CBD BUG) commends this reduction of road space and the resulting improvements to the quality and capacity of CBD footpaths for pedestrians as another step towards reducing the people-hostile environment created by the motor vehicle's dominance of Brisbane's inner city.

At the CBD BUG June general meeting a motion was unanimously passed calling for a network of protected, bi-directional bike lanes be installed in Brisbane's CBD. The result would be a grid pattern linking with existing bikeways and allowing greater access to the Brisbane CBD. The CBD BUG points to the existing George St protected, bi-directional bike lane as an example of what can be installed at relatively low cost and in minimal time.

Following this motion this letter calls on Council's planning for Edward Street, to include some of the road space anticipated to be converted through this project to be set aside as protected bidirectional bike lanes for people riding bikes.

A major reason for using some of this road space for dedicated bike lanes is to increase the viability of retail businesses in Edward St. The first protected bicycle lane installed in the United States resulted in retail sales increases of up to 49% in local business (page 4 of *Measuring the Street: New Metrics for 21st Century Streets*, New York City Department of Transport <http://www.nyc.gov/html/dot/downloads/pdf/2012-10-measuring-the-street.pdf>). A physically segregated space for people riding bikes that would connect Spring Hill through to the City Botanic Gardens would allow people riding bikes to easily access shops and restaurants along Edward Street thus boosting businesses along the street as in the many overseas examples of which we have quoted but one.

The CBD BUG would like to point out that Edward Street is included in the SEQ Principal Network. This would indicate that there is sound forward planning to justify the provision of protected separated bike lanes on Edward Street.

Based on the findings from peer-reviewed research the creation of dedicated road space in the CBD for people riding bikes would increase the utilisation of CityCycle bikes. (*Barriers and facilitators to public bicycle scheme use : a qualitative approach*. Fishman, E, Washington, S, & Haworth, N. (2012). Transportation Research Part F: Traffic Psychology and Behaviour, 15(6), pp. 686-698.) Source: <http://eprints.qut.edu.au/53329/>). With there being six CityCycle stations on or in very close proximity to Edward Street (Source: <http://www.citycycle.com.au/All-Stations/Station-Map>) the CBD BUG views the creation of a

new and segregated bike lane along Edward Street as an important facilitator of CityCycle usage along this street.

Please note the CBD BUG is well aware of the bus stops that exist along Edward St. The BUG does not see these as an unsurmountable issue as there is countless solutions and examples nationally and internationally of how this could be resolved.

We note that previous, similar road space conversion projects by Brisbane City Council on both Market Street and Albert Street (Elizabeth Street to Alice Street) did not take into account the needs of people riding bikes. It is typical that such missed opportunities may not re-occur for a prolonged period of up to several decades. As such, the full benefits of such projects have in all likelihood not been fully realised. Accordingly, the CBD BUG is very concerned that such a critical link with the potential to significantly increase the CBD's bicycle rider-friendliness is not added to this list of missed opportunities.

We look forward to your response on this matter.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Campbell', written in a cursive style.

Donald Campbell
Co-convenor
Brisbane CBD BUG
11 July 2015

CC
Vicki Howard – Central Ward